

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

FRB-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 JUSE-00 FTC-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /200 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6593

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ENRG, EEC

SUBJ: TRADE UNION ENERGY CONFERENCE GENERATES LITTLE INTEREST

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1394

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: A TRADE UNION ENERGY CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) WAS HELD MARCH 15-16 AT LUXEMBOURG. MORE THAN 90 TRADE UNION LEADERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL FROM THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR, ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE. THE ABSENCE OF ANY REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LARGEST ETUC AFFILIATE, THE BRITISH TUC, AND A GENERAL WANING OF INTEREST IN THE TRADE UNION SECTOR IN ENERGY MATTERS ARE VIEWED AS FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE TO GENERATE MORE THAN MINIMAL ENTHUSIASM AND ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATES TO THE RECENT ETUC ENERGY CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ENERGY CRISIS AND TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR A FUTURE ETUC ENERGY POLICY, CALLED ON THE ETUC CONGRESS AT COPENHAGEN MAY 23-25 TO PROPOSE THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY EUROPEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR AND TO ADVOCATE THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT TRIPARTATE ENERGY COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTED FROM THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF STUDIES BY GERMAN DGB PRESIDENT VETTER AND BELGIAN FGTB GENERAL SECRETARY DEBUNNE DEALING WITH VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENERGY, AND ITS IMPACT ON WORKERS AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES.

3. AS EXPECTED, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE ROLE OF MULTI-NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND DEMANDS FOR GREATER PUBLIC CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIVITIES. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

4. COMMENT: THE ABSENCE OF BRITISH TUC REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE OF "PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN BRITAIN" WAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED BY CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS AND MANY OF THE DELEGATES, WHO VIEWED THIS AS A FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO A GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A MORE LOGICAL EXPLANATION TO THE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IS THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS PLANNED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN THE MIDST OF NO-DRIVING SUNDAYS AND SPECULATION ABOUT LARGE-SCALE ENERGY-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT. THE ETUC CAN STILL BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF ENERGY POLICY BUT THE SENSE OF URGENCY WHICH MOTIVATED ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS A SHORT WHILE AGO HAS CLEARLY SUBSIDED. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM. GREENWALD

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